



News Release

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

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For Immediate Release

THE “LEAKER” HAS BEEN PROCESSED

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala., February 25, 2004 (3:30 p.m.) – Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) Site Project Manager Timothy K. Garrett has announced that the 14 rockets pulled from an Enhanced On-Site Container here yesterday were successfully and uneventfully processed this afternoon. In fact, processing of the last rocket was completed at 3 p.m.

“Two Westinghouse Anniston employees, working in protective gear,” Garrett reports, “safely placed 14 rockets, one at a time, on the rocket conveyor system this afternoon. Site control room personnel subsequently moved the rockets into the Explosion Containment Room where the rockets were, one at a time, cut into eight pieces and processed in the Deactivation Furnace.”

ANCDF officials alerted State and area Emergency Management Agency officials, local elected officials, and the media yesterday that an EONC in the ANCDF Unpack Area did have a positive chemical agent reading. Later, ANCDF workers moved one pallet, containing 14 M55 GB rockets into the Explosion Containment Vestibule yesterday evening. Workers this afternoon placed the rockets onto a conveyor for processing.

As with all of the 18,675 GB rockets that have been safely processed and destroyed at the ANCDF since operations began on August 9, 2003, today’s rockets were fed to the facility’s Deactivation Furnace. Operating at approximately 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, the rocket pieces and motor, rocket fuel, and crystalline agent was completely destroyed.

(More)

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“I want to state again,” Garrett said, “we anticipated that we would have to eventually work with a sealed EONC that had a positive chemical agent reading, we have a procedure in place that had been practiced, and the situation was safely resolved. This is something we will do again when we have another EONC with an agent reading”

Garrett said, “I cannot praise enough our ANCDF work force, the Anniston Chemical Activity employees, and the Anniston Army Depot employees who directly support us. Making Anniston and all of northeast Alabama safer is truly a team effort.”

As of midnight Tuesday, the ANCDF team has safely processed 18,675 M55 GB rockets and 20,845 gallons of GB.

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Questions?: Please call:

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CMA: Making Chemical Weapons History